



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Child Support Services Reaches Record Distribution for 2002-2003 *Custodial parents receive \$150 million in child support*

The County of San Diego Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) distributed an all-time high \$150 million in child support payments during fiscal year 2002-2003.

The total was achieved in the department's first full fiscal year as a separate agency. Prior to October 2001, local child support was handled within the District Attorney's office. The County fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Included in this year's distribution total was \$47.3 million that reimbursed federal, state and county public assistance funds. When a custodial parent receives welfare, any child support collected on the case reimburses public assistance funds, except for \$50 a month that goes to the custodial parent.

The \$150 million distributed by DCSS represents a seven percent increase from last year and a 79% increase during the past six years. In 1996-1997 child support payments in San Diego County totaled \$83.4 million.

"The success we had in collections and distribution this past year reflects the dedication and hard work of more than 700 staff members in our department," said DCSS director Dr. Thomas Boardman. "As a county department, we've been able to make some major improvements, not only in terms of dollars collected, but also in terms of customer service for San Diego families. Despite severe state budget cuts, we're committed to continuing improvement in these areas."

DCSS closed the 2002-2003 fiscal year with 138,968 active cases on file, thus having a direct impact on one in six San Diegans.

Those individuals seeking additional information on child support can contact DCSS by calling 619-236-7600 or toll free at 1-866-230-CARE. The department's web site is www.sandiegochildsupport.com.

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